

Message Text

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16

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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, BBAK, NU

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION INSTITUTE

REF: STATE 170546; 146196; 090803

1. EMBASSY UNABLE TO VOUCH FOR BONA FIDES OF EITHER THE INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION INSTITUTE, SUBJECT OF INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN JAMES HALEY, OR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION REFERRAL AGENCY, SUBJECT OF EARLIER DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY. WE RECOMMEND MUCH CAUTION IN DEALING WITH EITHER ORGANIZATION. BOTH ARE HEADED BY FRANK BAIAMONTE, SUBJECT OF INS INVESTIGATION IN FLORIDA FOR CHARGING EXCESSIVELY HIGH FEES FOR PROCESSING ADOPTIONS. ACCORDING TO FIRST REFTEL, THE INSTITUTE SPECIFIED THAT A POWER OF ATTORNEY SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE NAME OF DRA. LEANA MACHADO DE FERREY. DRA. MACHADO, FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, DISCLAIMS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT INSTITUTE. SHE THINKS SHE MIGHT HAVE MET MR. BAIAMONTE IN JUNE WHEN HE REQUESTED A FAVOR FROM HER OFFICE IN THE ADOPTION-VISA CASE OF HUGO CONTRERAE (REFTEL #2). SHE ASKED FOR HIS FULL NAME AND ADDRESS IN ORDER TO WRITE HIM AND OBJECT TO HIS USE OF HER NAME IN CONNECTION WITH THE INSTITUTE. SHE ALSO SAID THAT SHE CHARGES 300 US DOLLARS TO HANDLE AN ADOPTION, AND THAT THE FEE OF 2,150 US DOLLARS MENTIONED IN FIRST REFTEL IS RIDICULOUS.

2. THE GON DOES NOT REGISTER, NOR GRANT ANY OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO, SUCH AGENCIES AS THE INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION

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NITION TO, SUCH AGENCIES AS THE INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION

INSTITUTE. THERE IS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO HANDLE ADOPTIONS OF CHILDREN IN THE GOVERNMENT-RUN ORPHANAGE. UNDER NICARAGUAN LAW, PRIVATELY-HIRED LAWYERS ARE ALLOWED TO HANDLE THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ADOPTIONS NOT IN THE ORPHANAGE OR OTHERWISE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S CARE. MOST COMMON SOURCE OF ADOPTABLE CHILDREN FOR THOSE WHO DO ADOPT PRIVATELY, ARE SINGLE MOTHERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN CHILD AND ARE WILLING TO ADOPT OUT.

3. WHAT INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE APPARENTLY INTENDS TO DO IS NOT ILLEGAL. SOME PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO PAY 2,150 US DOLLARS, OR MORE, FOR EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE "FINDING" SERVICE AND LEGAL SERVICE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTION INSTITUTE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE. THE LACK OF COORDINATION SO FAR, THE EXCESSIVE FEES MENTIONED, AND THE INCIDENT WITH DRA. MACHADO, CAST DOUBT ON RELIABILITY OF THE INSTITUTE.
SHELTON

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